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In the past few years under the instruction of the forestry department young trees have been cut in such a way as not to injure stands of growing evergreens. Besides, owners of wooded lands are copying methods in Germany and other European countries and are thinning out plantations of young trees in such a way as to utilize and develop the best of their forest growth.

As a result of these methods New York State will have plenty of the two kinds of trees most desirable for the Christmas season, the balsam fir and the red spruce. A report from the State College of Forestry says:

"Both of these trees grow abundantly and thickly in the Adirondacks and to a limited extent on high elevations in other parts of the State."

So let the kiddies cheer up. There will be an abundance of Christmas trees and greens. And if the dealers who are trying to boost the price too high don't look out the boycott will get them.

#### The Postponement of Relief for the Railways.

The Newlands committee has voted to discontinue its hearings and to ask Congress to extend until next December the time in which it is to report on a comprehensive plan for handling the railway problems of the country. The disappointment of the railways, which hoped for some measure of relief from the present Congress, is natural. Their introductory evidence has been partly cross-examined and the views of one or two individuals, notably WILLIAM JENNINGS BAYAN, have been brought out. It is unsatisfactory all around to postpone the rest of the investigation until spring.

Unsatisfactory, but possibly wise. The most important matter before Congress at present is the programme of President Wilson for dealing with railway industrial disputes. If the President's scheme to prevent strikes within an investigatory period is to be enacted into law the whole influence of the Administration will have to be brought to bear in Congress. SAMUEL GOMPERS and the American Federation of Labor, as well as the four railway brotherhoods, are determined to fight to the last ditch any law that would make it impossible to call a strike at any time. The fact that the tying up of a public utility might mean the ruin of thousands is not an overpowering consideration with the leaders of labor.

It is desirable that public attention be centered on this one feature of the railway situation at this time. The consideration of the Adamson law by the Supreme Court and the court's decision on that statute will coincide with the consideration by Congress of laws to avert the circumstances that led to its passage. The critical issues raised last September and put off for a few months are now again before Congress and the country; until they are definitely settled the other phases of the railway situation, profoundly important as they are, will have to wait.

#### Lloyd George's War Council.

The War Council chosen or arranged by the new British Premier contains: a Welshman, himself; an Englishman, Earl Curzon; a Scotsman, ARTHUR HENDERSON; a Canadian, BONAR LAW, and a native of Germany, VISCOUNT MILNER, who in part was educated in that country and one of whose grandmothers was German. VISCOUNT HALDANE was a suspect and had to quit public life because he studied at Göttingen, admired German efficiency and had lunched with the Kaiser. It is a proof of LLOYD GEORGE's courage that he takes a German born Englishman into the War Council.

In the present year VISCOUNT MILNER has had the pack at his heels, the yelpers in full cry because he was a "German"; and he himself said, no later than June: "I have a great appreciation of the strong points of the Germans, with their patriotism, their thoroughness, their fidelity to science and their marvellous gift of organization." VISCOUNT HALDANE never spoke out more boldly about the Germans. He had to walk the plank, leered to his obscurity. The new Premier remembers, but he has no prejudices and he is unafraid.

VISCOUNT MILNER will need defenders if a cog slips in the new machine. However, all they need do is to produce his references. True these references are not of this day, but MILNER has undergone no change. Mr. ASQUITH said of him: "He has as clear an intellect and as sympathetic an imagination, and, if the need should arise, a power of resolution as tenacious and as inflexible as belong to any man of our day." And Lord ROSEBURY, who is not given to extravagant praise, testified that "MILNER has the union of intellect with fascination which makes men mount high." Tribute has been paid to MILNER's "unfailing fund of humor, which is the lubricant of life." Probably one of Mr. LLOYD GEORGE's reasons for asking VISCOUNT MILNER to enter his War Council was that the one High Commissioner of South Africa has a warm regard for America and advocates a friendly understanding with the United States to preserve the world's peace. The two men ought to get on together famously.

But people will ask how the Premier can possibly get on with Earl Curzon. What have they in common? LLOYD GEORGE is the most democratic politician in British public life, with a broad and genial sense of humor; Curzon is a born and pompous aristocrat with no sense of humor at all. A brilliant Liberal journalist has said that he "would have been a great man if he could occasionally have forgotten Lord Curzon."

We must now apparently fall back upon our original source of supply. But since earlier days New York State has learned much about growing Christmas greens. Farmers have discovered that they may be grown on waste lands and in young orchards.

zoz," and he "has dwelt in a house of mirrors." It was his abnormal self-esteem and his perversion of power that made Viceroy Curzon a failure in India. His indiscretions were "blazing," his estimate of the Hindu, even the East Indian gentleman and scholar, an insult that ranked, Viscount Curzon has written much and often unwisely, exciting derision and scorn. Yet often he has shown courage of a high order, and even enemies admit that his mind is constructive and fertile and his powers of work second to no man's. Unfortunately in his new office he may try to dictate to the dictator. It would be like CURZON of Kedleston, Lord KITCHENER took his measure, never liked him and could hardly breathe the same air with him.

Now VISCOUNT MILNER's industry is well nigh fabulous too. Nothing tires LLOYD GEORGE. The three will be indefatigable, and only efficiency will satisfy them. Mr. BONAR LAW is a concession to the Colonies, but he will be too busy defending the Government in the House of Commons to function much in the War Council. He is a man of strong common sense and as practical as a stationary steam engine. His vote may be needed sometimes. As for ARTHUR HENDERSON, the Labor member, his choice was a shrewd stroke. He is truly representative, looked up to, is hard headed with a judicial bent, has been Mayor of Darlington and a Magistrate of Durham, and is a total abstainer, which will help. To some critics the War Council will seem fearfully and wonderfully made, but it won't be afraid to do things, it will assume responsibility serenely, and it will not work by the clock.

What authority has the London Daily Mail for saying that WINSTON SPENCER CHURCHILL is not wanted in the army? There is some use for every man in the present emergency. A mystery why Colonel CHURCHILL was allowed to fly from the trenches to Westminster at his own sweet will, is still available in Great Britain's extremity?

There is one war chariot in Europe that is both novel and effective, and it is the water wagon. A Vice-Consul at Bangkok reports that "frog" drums are highly prized there. Evidently the Siamese have not ascertained that the German military authorities, twenty-five submarines warping on merchantmen would endanger Great Britain's food supply. The presumption is that Germany is now giving more attention to the building of undersea boats than to the laying down and completion of battleships and cruisers.

#### Defeat of the Scallop in Congress.

Friends of that leaping mollusk, the scallop, will regret to learn that a fight made for him in Congress has been lost. FREDERICK C. HICKS, who represents most of Long Island in the House, made a dashy campaign for the scallop, but the forces of evil prevailed. It was on the question of appropriating \$50,000 for a new hatchery on the island beyond the waters contaminated by New York. Of course Mr. HICKS's plea to the House was not for the scallop only.

"We have the greatest shellfish industry in this whole country. The Blue Point, the Rockaway and Peconic oysters are famous. Then we have the little-neck clam and scallops."

The capitalization is the Public Printer's. Why "little-neck" and not "blue-point"? The clam's neck is not little any more than the point of the oyster is blue. But on to the scallop and the happy youth of FRED HICKS:

"I remember as a boy that my father was in the habit of sending down to the bay near where I was born and obtaining scallops, which were shelled up by the bushes to feed the chickens. The scallops have become exhausted by the constant digging of them until none exist in that bay (possibly Hempstead Harbor, for Mr. HICKS was born at Westbury), and you can only find them far down on the eastern end of the island. They are so rare now that they are a great delicacy."

While Mr. HICKS was explaining that Long Island Sound was not contaminated, a Democrat tried to get gay with him:

Mr. CLARK of Florida—Since scallops are all gone, what do they feed the chickens in New York now?

Mr. HICKS—We feed them on the poor oranges that come from Florida.

Perhaps this bold reply alienated the Southern Democrats. At any rate the HICKS measure was beaten, 63 to 50, and the scallop must know that it will have to get along without Congress, which has no more regard for its future than the chickens had.

#### Square American Business Men.

The members of the Federal Trade Commission were sworn into office in March, 1915, and began work almost immediately. When the law creating the commission was passed it was expected that the repression of unfair commercial practices would be one of its principal duties. From March, 1915, to July 1, 1916, the commission received in all 246 applications for the issuance of complaints against corporations and firms accused of unfair practices. Of these 107 have been disposed of. Some were found to be baseless.

In a period of over fifteen months there were in the whole area of the United States only 246 instances of competition waged with such tactics as to cause an appeal to the Government for justice. The figure is extraordinary. Many tens of thousands of corporations do business in this country. We have for some years been educated to believe that many are not doing business fairly. We should have been warranted in expecting the Federal Trade Commission to be swamped with complaints. The absurdly few appeals to it justify a conception of the American business man as a square fighter and a decent citizen.

Does not Colonel HORSER in these halcyon days come in for an increase in salary?

In the discussion about the part Governor Hiram JOHNSON played in the disastrous California campaign nothing is said about the personal strength or weakness of his Democratic opponent for the Senate, GEORGE PATTON of Los Angeles.

From one of Sunday's sermons: "Should the family fortune be established by trade across footfalls, by political contracts, note shavings or what not, the children are sent to Yale or Vassar as a preliminary boost in social climbing." Fine distinction must be drawn, considering the premises and the conclusion, before an answer can be given to the question: What will Harvard and Wellesley and others

#### THE SUN, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1916.

think of this discriminatory arrangement?

California's apologetic attitude toward her recent landslide for Wilson resembles that of a repentant sinner who explains that he was led astray by a total stranger.

I have never had time, not even five minutes, to be tempted to do anything against the moral law, civil law or any law whatever.—THOMAS A. EDISON.

Mr. Edison has missed a lot of fun.

Mad dog in a barroom.—Newspaper headline.

Surely no sane dog would go into such a place.

It is something of a coincidence that Field Marshal OYAMA and PAUL LAMOTHEAU, the Frenchman who knew Japan so well and wrote in such a masterly fashion about her future, should die on the same day.

Labor will win or lose the war.—Jesse H. THOMAS, M. P.

Palpably that is also the German view, and Germany thought of it first.

The congregation of the Church of St. John the Evangelist of this city has asked President WILSON to use "a moral standard" on the Kaiser. They seem to forget that Mr. WILSON is no longer Secretary of State.

The hammer seems to be a favorite British weapon; at the front in night raids on the enemy's trenches; at home in attacks upon the Government leaders.

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Lord NORTHCLIFFE has asserted that LLOYD GEORGE understands "the intangible psychology of the American people." There's where England's new Premier has an advantage over Professor HENRI MENENDEZ of Harvard.

No 1915 or 1916 peace prize.—News paper headline.

But was peace ever more talked about in an equal period of time?

#### ESPERANTO FOR BELGIUM.

No. Nor for Poland, Says the Accuser of the "International Language."

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—SIR: We, the Esperantists in the United States, are anxious to see the language of peace used in the Franco-English "Chapelier" project or not?

Suppose Germany were to win this war, would Germany try to impose Esperanto or German as a world language? Who is made known the present method of Esperanto would be chosen. It is necessary to recall Alsace-Lorraine, Poland, Belgium, where Esperanto did not obtain? Under present conditions Esperanto is not a neutral language?

Let us not be dazzled by names. Had the Esperantists in the United States been as anxious to see the language of peace used in the Franco-English "Chapelier" project or not?

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#### THE SUNSET CLUB.

A Disinterested and Gentle Invitation Asks the Loan of a Home.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—SIR: There is an association in New York City called the Sunset Club, which reaches out to women of fifty years of age who for one reason or another may find themselves lonely, without an occupation or lacking outlet for energy which up to this time has found expression in the managing of a family and household.

The association hopes to arouse the dormant ones, those who did not realize that their lives were slipping away from them or that there was much to interest them outside of their own four walls. It hopes to cheer those who fancy themselves relegated to the chimney place; it is distinctly constructive and aims to put into each life just the thing most needed, it is working along lines ideal and unique in the annals of clubdom. There are neither entrance fees, dues nor paid officials. Having no club funds, it cannot as a club offer or give financial aid, though members as individuals may and do help each other.

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